Container and offshore shipping

1194. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government on container and offshore shipping;

(b) whether Government propose to allow subsidy in shipbuilding for building container ships in India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) The development of India shipping including off shore shipping is an ongoing process. In November, 2002, the Government had issued revised guidelines for chartering of vessels supporting the owners of Indian vessels for operating in the coastal and offshore sector in line with worldwide practice. So far as container shipping is concerned the Government has taken steps to enhance capacity and improve productivity with focus on measures aimed at modernization, rendering cost effective services, enhancement of service quality, commercialization through corporatization and increase private participation in major ports of the country with these measures ports are expected to have an additional container handling capacity of 24.50 million tonnes per annum during the Tenth plan period.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Shipbuilding subsidy has been extended to all the shipyards. However, incase of domestic orders, ocean going merchant vessels of the length of 80 meters or above are eligible for shipbuilding subsidy. In case of export order, the subsidy is available irrespective of type and size of vessel. Container ships which meet the above criteria are eligible for shipbuilding subsidy.

Status of National Waterway Number-One

1195. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the status of National Waterway Number-one between Haldia and Allahabad;

(b) whether this needs further dredging for ensuring improvement and if so, the financial requirement thereof;

(c) the contemplated manner of financing this;

(d) whether this Waterway requires infrastructure for night navigation; and

(e) if so, the details of the project envisaged during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) The river Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia has been declared as National Waterway No. 1 and basic infrastructural facilities namely navigable channel, navigational aids and terminals are being provided on the waterway to enable transport by inland vessels.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Being a major alluvial river carrying huge quantity of sediment, dredging is required every year during the low water season at the shallow patches to maintain desired depth in the navigable channel. Amount required for dredging and other river conservancy works is of the order of Rs. 10 Cr. to 12 Cr. every year and it is provided in the annual budgets as grant to Inland Waterways Authority of India.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir, Night navigation facilities are being provided in a phased manner. The stretch between the Kolkata and Farakka is already being provided with such facility. Night navigation facilities in the upper stretches of the waterway will be provided in a phased manner depending on availability of resources and development of cargo transportation.

Expansion of major ports

1196. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step towards the modernisation and expansion of the major ports during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith fund spent thereon, port-wise;

(c) whether Government have earmarked fund for the development and expansion of these ports during Tenth Plan;